

Graffiti vs Murals



Graffiti is any unsanctioned material posted/painted on public or private property.

Graffiti is vandalism, not art.

The difference between community murals and graffiti is that murals are done with the permission of the property owner. If you wish to apply for a permit for an outdoor mural or art piece you may do so through the City of Charleston. Keep Charleston Beautiful is available to help with public mural projects. KCB is a strong supporter of community murals. Our murals can be seen at Mitchell Park and Mall Park downtown.

How to Report Graffiti: Call 958-1500

How to prevent Graffiti:

- ~If you see vandals in action call the police at 577-7434 (non-emergency phone line) immediately.
- ~If you know someone that does graffiti, encourage them not to do it to other people's property - including public property. Encourage them to file for permits so their art will not be removed.
- ~Remove graffiti quickly and without drawing attention to it to discourage continued tagging or bombing.
- ~Plant trees or other greenery near a graffiti-plagued wall
- ~ Create a sanctioned mural in an areas hit with graffiti
- ~Install lighting in tagged areas

Why report graffiti?

- ~Graffiti lowers property values
- ~Discourages shoppers
- ~Scares away tourists
- ~Costs a lot of money to remove
- ~Damages historic buildings and monuments
- ~Lowers the morale of a community
- ~ Shows a lack of concern and encourages other crimes

Graffiti hurts everyone: homeowners, businesses, schools, and the community at large.

What is the penalty for graffiti?

SC law states that first offenders receive a fine up to \$1,000.00 and/or jail time not less than 30 days and up to 90 days and restitution to the victim. A second conviction in ten years calls for a fine up to \$2,500.00 and/or jail time up to 1 year.